

## FIELD TRIPS OF THE CLUB

## TRIP OF SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 1932, TO THE PALISADES

Twenty-seven members and guests appeared for the seven mile walk under the cliffs and the trek to and from the Kelders—the depression atop the Palisades and our objective at the end of the trail. The coltsfoot, *Tussilago Farfara*, and common chickweed, *Stellaria media*, were in full bloom and many of the winter buds were showing signs of spring, among others *Amelanchier canadensis*, *Sassafras variifolium*, *Acer rubrum*, *Sambucus racemosa*, *Staphylea trifolia*, *Ulmus americana* and *U. fulva*, *Benzoin aestivale* and many others. Halfway up the trail we came upon a young yellow birch, *Betula lutea*, still wearing many of its last year's leaves. Sheltered in the ravine it had withstood the winter's winds and was an object of considerable interest. Upon reaching the Kelders we found *Corylus americana* with the pistillate flowers just beginning to show, and in the swamp a fair-sized specimen of the somewhat rare red birch, *Betula nigra*.

Armed with a permit from the Park commission, the earnest students of winter botany were enabled to collect specimens, many of which found their way into classrooms on the following morning. In spite of the drastic "improvements" in the immediate vicinity of New York City, this stretch of wild woodland still invites the botanist.

HELENE LUNT

## FIELD TRIP, MARCH 27, 1932

Ripe catkins of *Alnus rugosa* and *Alnus incana*, and of *Corylus rostrata*, and the well advanced flowers of *Symplocarpus foetidus*, were the only flowering plants in bloom, on the field trip of Sunday, March 27, in the Highlands of the Hudson, from Bear Mountain, via Fort Montgomery to Torne Pond, Hawk Hill and return via Popolopen Creek. A few mosses, *Ceratodon purpureum*, *Polytrichum piliferum*, *Mnium hornum* and *cuspidatum* and *Bartramia pomiformis*, showed well developed capsules.

But lichens were in fine condition and, in the absence of other plants in advanced stages, were made the chief object for study. The ledges and old wood roads, on Hawk Hill, rising

to 1200 feet, west of Torne Pond, proved rich in ground species, although tree forms are scarce, probably owing to numerous fires and frequent cutting.

The most unusual form was *Cladonia coccifera*, with red apothecia, on proliferations on sea-green cups. *Cladonia chlorophaea*, forma *carpophora*, was numerous along the Owl Trail over Hawk Hill, and displayed a great variety of proliferations, some approaching the form *homodactyla*, in which the sinuses between the stipes bearing the brown apothecia were so deep as almost to obliterate the cups. *Cladonia mitrula*, forma *imbricatula*, was common, with its large brown apothecia. Three of the "Reindeer Mosses," *Cladonia rangiferina*, *tenuis* and *impexa*, were found growing together on the borders of flat ledges.

Among the crustose lichens, several colonies of *Lecanora tartarea* were seen, on glacial erratics, mostly. A brown thallus, with conspicuous black hypothallus, seemed to be *Rhizocarpon ignobile*. Two species of what appeared to be *Buellias*,—*B. spuria*, and *B. parasema*, were found on smoothly polished quartzite cobbles in a brook bed.

The red fruited *Cladonia cristatella*, in the forms *Beauvoisii*, *ramosa*, *squamosissima* and *vestita*, as described by Professor A. W. Evans, in his "Cladoniae of Connecticut," was common and in fine condition and color. *Peltigera canina* also occurred. *Cladonia chlorophaea*, formae *simplex* and *prolifera*, were seen, the former being the most common cup bearing lichen in this region. *Baeomyces roseus* was not in as good condition as in early winter, the November crop of stipes being withered, but a new set was starting. A small colony of *Cladonia verticillata*, forma *apoticta* was found.

An interesting lichen was the Woolly Crocynia, *Crocynia lanuginosa*. This species, *Crocynia* of Annie Lorain Smith's "British Lichens," and *Amphiloma lanuginosa* of Fink's "Lichens of Minnesota," is, as Fink says, in the process of becoming a lichen, but is not quite settled yet as to what its apothecia, if, when and as developed, are going to be like. Its algal symbiont is probably Protococcus, but its fungal symbiont is yet uncertain, for it has not produced any apothecia to give a clue. It takes various forms according to the substratum, felt-like white or yellowish masses on mosses, or bases of trees; thinner and

lighter colored thalli as small orbicular colonies advance out upon open ledges. It is often found as an epiphyte on the thalli of *Gyrophora dillenii*. Once identified, it is seen to be one of the commonest lichens in our region, and it adapts itself to various conditions and reproduces, by soredia only, with obvious efficiency and success.

RAYMOND H. TORREY

FIELD TRIP OF APRIL 2 TO SILVER LAKE  
PARK, WHITE PLAINS

A light rain and black clouds in the morning evidently discouraged some members of the club as only seven met at the station of the New York, Westchester and Boston Rail Road. The announced object of the trip was for spring flowering trees and shrubs. Evidently the trees among the hills of the region are later in opening their buds than elsewhere, as only a few red maples, *Acer rubrum*, and elms, *Ulmus americana*, were found in bloom. Under one slender maple were scattered many twigs with opened flowers, the stems all showing the tooth marks of squirrels. The staminate catkins of the smooth alder, *Alnus rugosa*, were shedding pollen on some plants, on others all the pollen had been shed and the catkins were drying. The stigmas of the pistillate catkins all showed pollen when examined with a lens. On the hazelnut, *Corylus rostrata*, the staminate catkins were fully expanded and some shedding pollen, but none of the pistillate flowers could be seen.

Beside the swamp the skunk cabbage, *Symplocarpus foetidus*, was nearly through flowering, with some of the leaves fully unrolled, the fluted spikes of the white hellebore, *Veratrum viride*, were six or more inches high, and a patch of golden saxifrage, *Chrysoplenium americanum*, was growing vigorously though it had no blossoms. Several plants of hepatica, *Hepatica acutiloba*, had the little hairy buds showing, but only one flower was found fully expanded. A small colony of walking fern, *Camptosorus rhizophyllus*, was found on a boulder of Fordham gneiss. As this fern is usually associated with limestone, Mr. Elwert tested the soil about the roots of the plants and found it to be strongly acid. In several places *Botrychium obliquum* var. *dissectum* was found, twenty or thirty of the sterile leaves of last year being found in one small area.

GEORGE T. HASTINGS

## BUS TRIP TO FAHNESTOCK STATE PARK, APRIL 17

Members of the Torrey Botanical Club joined with several other outdoor organizations in a trip by bus and automobile to Fahnestock State Park, in Putnam County, on Sunday, April 17. New York members of the various groups made the trip in two large busses, which proved a comfortable and speedy method of travel, one which our club might adopt more frequently, if a leader organizing such an excursion could be sure of filling a bus sufficiently to bring the cost down to a moderate figure. In this case, invitations to other clubs, resulted in filling two busses which made the round trip cost only \$2. Probably this could be done again, if other clubs were invited. These busses hold 29 and the cost for a 12 hour day is \$49. The method is recommended to the club, members of the field committee and field leaders, for further consideration.

When joined by members of the Westchester Trails Association, in private cars, the party numbered 99. The other groups represented were the Adirondack Mountain Club, Tramp and Trail Club, Inkowa Outdoor Club, Green Mountain Club, and some unattached individuals.

The party followed the Appalachian Trail north from the park, to a high viewpoint overlooking the lower country of Dutchess County, and beyond to the Shawangunks and Catskills. Spring flowers were few, the only ones in bloom being arbutus, and spicebush, but the leaves of skunk cabbage and poison poke showed some greenery along the brooks. However the open ledges on the summit of Mount Sekunna, disclosed some interesting lichens. One of them, *Stereocaulon paschale*, with beautiful silver-gray, closely packed cushions of feathery podetia, is a distinctly northern species, common at low levels in sub-Arctic latitudes, but found with us only on high bleak summits,—vanishing boreal islands. The writer has found it hereabouts only on Schunemunk Mountain, in Orange County, N. Y., and on Sky Top and Camelback Mountains, in the Poconos of Pennsylvania. It was very abundant on Mount Sekunna, several colonies occupying some square yards each being found.

Other lichens in considerable quantity and good development on the ledges were *Lecanora tartarea*, *Rinodina oreina*,

and *Caloplaca aurantiaca*, the last making a conspicuous orange band across a boulder, with its brightly colored disk apothecia and thalli. Several other crustose species were seen. Three of the Rock Tripes, *Gyrophora dilleuii* and *muhlenbergii* and *Umbilicaria pustulata* were common.

On the descent from the mountain one large spreading plant of *Juniperus communis* var *depressa* a plant much more common in the northern part of the state than in our region was found.

Another interesting botanical feature was the swamp filled with red spruce, *Picea rubra*, (rare in this latitude) in Fahnestock Park, south of the county highway. It was mixed with *Rhododendron maximum*, which is much less common east of the Hudson than west of it. Pitcher plants were also found in this swamp.

This is a very interesting region, and would reward study at other times of the year, especially the spruce swamp, which might yield other unusual species if explored in summer. The Park can only be reached conveniently by automobile, via the Albany Post Road, to McKeel Corner, 13 miles north of Peekskill, then six miles east on the county road to Carmel.

RAYMOND H. TORREY